

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113

Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting

October 7, 2004

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Diane M. Griffiths
Teresa P. Hughes
Lynn Schenk
Michael R. Yamaki

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Enid Barnes
Theresa Bueno
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Shivani Nath
Steve Soto
Karen Thalhammer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Nancy E. McFadden, Chair
Thomas Calderon
Vicki Marti

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Feely, Department of Finance
Sunni Burns, Department of Health Services

I. Discussion and Public Comment

The call to order for the October 7, 2004 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was delayed due to lack of a quorum. Commissioner Lynn Schenk, presiding in the absence of Chair Nancy McFadden, requested Executive Director Keith Berger to commence with his Executive Report and invited public comment and discussion until a quorum was present.

II. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Berger reported that there were no new requests by hospitals or health plans to appear before the Commission in closed session at this time.

Mr. Berger reminded the Commissioners that they had approved a request from Children's Hospital of San Diego to appear in closed session before the Commission at this meeting, and that the representatives of Children's Hospital of San Diego were present and prepared to give their presentation.

Mr. Berger asked Sunni Burns, Acting Chief for the Medi-Cal Division of the Department of Health Services, to give the Commission a brief update on the meetings that took place in Washington, D.C. last week regarding the State's proposal for an 1115 Waiver to restructure Medi-Cal payments to safety-net hospitals.

Ms. Burns informed the Commission that on September 28, 2004, Stan Rosenstein, DHS Deputy Director of Medical Care Services, Kimberly Belshé, Health and Human Services Agency Secretary, and Sandra Shewry, DHS Director, went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Dr. Mark McClellan, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator, and Dennis Smith, Medicaid Director. She indicated that while the response was not conclusive it was positive. She further noted that CMS was open to the concept and that the discussions were very general. CMS has asked State staff to travel to Baltimore as a workgroup to further discuss the details of the proposed concepts with CMS technical staff. The meetings are scheduled for October 13 and 14.

In response to Commissioner Schenk's question, the Executive Director stated that CMAC's Research Director, Mervin Tamai, will be accompanying the State team to Baltimore.

Mr. Berger reported that CMAC staff continues to move forward with the SB 1255 Round 17A process. Transferring entities made their intergovernmental transfers last Friday. CMAC staff is finalizing its analysis and determination of eligible hospitals' initial funding allocation. Negotiations have already begun with some of the hospitals, and CMAC staff will soon be talking to other hospitals.

Mr. Berger stated that CMAC is still targeting the October 21 meeting to have the majority of amendments before the Commission for action in closed session. He said it now appears a remaining set of amendments will be scheduled for the November 4 meeting.

In response to Commissioner Schenk's request that CMAC develop a process to notify legislators when Selective Provider Contracting Program (SPCP) hospitals in their district submit a contract termination notice, Mr. Berger reported that DHS is setting up a legislator notification process. Under that process, when an SPCP contract termination acknowledgement letter is sent from DHS to a hospital, DHS will send out a copy of the acknowledgement letter to the appropriate legislators from that district. At

the time when DHS issues the final termination letter, the local legislators will receive a copy of that letter as well. Mr. Berger then introduced Shivani Nath. She is CMAC's new Office Technician. He noted that Shivani started a week ago and that she comes from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and has been a great addition to CMAC.

Mr. Berger also introduced Steve Soto, noting that this is Mr. Soto's first Commission meeting as a CMAC employee. Mr. Soto is CMAC's new Senior Hospital Negotiator. Mr. Berger stated that several years ago Mr. Soto was the DHS representative to CMAC for the Medi-Cal Managed Care programs, and that Mr. Soto is very familiar with CMAC meetings and programs. Mr. Berger said that CMAC is very fortunate to have someone with Mr. Soto's background and experience joining the staff.

III. Medi-Cal Managed Care Activities

Mr. Berger indicated that there was nothing new to report at this time.

There being no comments from the public and still no quorum present, Commissioner Schenk requested that the public exit the room so Commissioners could engage in confidential negotiation discussions.

IV. Call To Order

Once a quorum was achieved, the October 7, 2004 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission was called to order by Commissioner Schenk. Commissioner Schenk immediately recessed the open session and convened the closed session.

V. Public Comment/Adjournment

After closed session items were addressed, Commissioner Schenk moved from closed session and reconvened in open session. Commissioner Schenk announced that the Commission had acted on contract amendments and addressed hospital contract negotiation issues in closed session. The meeting minutes for September 23 were approved as prepared by CMAC staff. The open session was then adjourned.